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GRADUATE SURVEY - 1972.(U)

MAR 74 J E MARRON , J W HOUSTON

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UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

WEST POINT · NEW YORK

GRADUATE SURVEY - 1972

(A Research Note)

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(A Research Note)

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Prepared by: 10 Joseph E. Marron and
Mr. John W. Houston

11 March 1974

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine which USMA programs graduates considered most useful, to obtain their recommendations for curriculum changes, and to find if they would still attend the Military Academy if they could reconsider their original decision. Usable returns were obtained from 913 graduates of the Classes of 1962, 1969, 1970 and 1971. Seventy-one percent of those returning questionnaires said they would still attend the Military Academy if they could now reconsider their choice.

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JOB

INTRODUCTION

Early in the Summer of 1972, the Superintendent of the Military Academy appointed two committees for the purpose of accomplishing a thorough review of all the Academy's various education and training programs. One of the committees, the USMA Curriculum Study Group, was composed of officers from USMA Staff and Faculty and the other, the Civilian Curriculum Review Board, of distinguished civilians.

The Civilian Curriculum Review Board was chaired by Mr. Frederick R. Kappel, President of American Telephone and Telegraph, with COL Edward A. Saunders, who was Chairman of the Study Group, functioning as Executive Secretary of the Review Board.

At the request of the Civilian Curriculum Review Board in September 1972, a questionnaire was developed and sent to samples of four classes of recent graduates. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine which USMA programs graduates considered most useful and to find if they would still attend the Military Academy if they could reconsider their original decision.

METHOD

The Graduate Survey - 1972 was sent in September 1972 to all living members of the Class of 1969, one-third of the Class of 1970, one-third of the Class of 1971, and one-half of the members of the Class of 1962. The sample for the Classes of 1970 and 1971 was selected by taking the first 60 from each group of 180 on the Graduation Order of Merit. The sample for the Class of 1962, was selected by taking the first 60 from each group of 120 on the Graduation Order of Merit.

The number and percent of surveys sent, received, and used in this analysis ^{are} as follows:

CLASS	NUMBER SENT	NUMBER RECEIVED	USED IN ANALYSIS	
			NUMBER	PERCENT
1962 Active	188	124	118	62.8%
1962 Separated	73	50	48	65.8%
1962 Total	261	174	166	63.6%
1969	755	470	465	61.6%
1970	242	146	146	60.3%
1971	240	138	136	56.7%
Unidentified	-	8	-	-
TOTAL	1498	936	913	61.0%

Twenty-eight percent of the Class of 1962 were separated from the service. Of those returning the questionnaire 29% were separated. In this respect the sample is representative.

The total response rate of 61.0% is adequate, and there is no reason to believe that there is any systematic bias in the response group. The sample seems to be representative of the population.

RESULTS

The summaries of the responses to the nine questions are attached (Appendix A, Tables 1-9). For all questions no significant differences were found between the 1962 active and the 1962 separated graduates so the answers were combined in the analysis for the 1962 total. The results of the analysis are as follows:

Question 1: Which one of the eight listed USMA programs have you found most useful?

a. Overall, respondents indicated that greatest use was made of Behavioral Science and Applied Science and Engineering, both of which were selected significantly more than the other programs.

b. The Class of 1962 made significantly greater use of Applied Science and Engineering, and Basic Science and Mathematics than the other classes.

c. The Classes of 1969 and 1971 made significantly greater use of Behavioral Science than the other two classes.

Question 2: Which one of the eight listed USMA programs could you have used more of?

a. Overall, a significantly larger proportion of all respondents indicated they could have used more Behavioral Science. Social Sciences and Humanities ran a poor second and third but were well ahead of all others.

b. A significantly larger proportion of the members of the Class of 1962 indicated they could have used more Computer Technology than did members of the other three classes.

c. A significantly smaller proportion of the Class of 1962 indicated they could have used more Social Science, compared to the other classes.

d. A significantly smaller proportion of the Class of 1970 indicated they could have used more Military Science.

Question 3: In your opinion, should the curriculum offered at West Point, (1) remain essentially as now structured, (2) provide more opportunities for concentration in special areas of interest, (3) provide more opportunity for a variety of completely free and unstructured electives, (4) provide for full-fledged majors in as many disciplinary areas as possible, (5) provide a single major in leadership and management with a choice of minors, or (6) other?

a. Overall, 49.9% favor "majors", 30.6% favor more opportunities for concentration in special areas of interest or a variety of free electives, and 16.7% favor retaining the curriculum as now structured.

b. The Class of 1962 was significantly different from all other classes in three response categories: significantly more said "leave the curriculum as now structured;" significantly fewer said "provide for full-fledged majors;" and significantly more said "provide a single major on leadership and management with a choice of minors."

Question 4: If you could reconsider your original decision would you now go to the U.S. Military Academy?

a. The proportion of the members of the Class of 1962 who said they would not do it over again is essentially the same as they responded in 1962 (12% now versus 14% then). A somewhat smaller proportion were undecided (8.4% now versus 11.6% then).

b. The proportion of members of the Class of 1971 who said they would do it over again increased from 54 percent at graduation to 71 percent now.

c. There are no significant differences among classes on this question.

Question 5: Would you encourage outstanding high school seniors to come to West Point?

a. The proportion of members of the Class of 1970 who said they would encourage outstanding high school seniors to come to West Point increased from 42% at graduation to 67% at the time of this survey. The Class of 1969 made an even greater increase, from 34% at graduation to 76% in the survey.

b. The proportion of the Class of 1962 who indicated they would encourage outstanding high school seniors to come to West Point was significantly larger than in the other classes, while the proportion of the Class of 1970 and 1971 with this response was significantly smaller.

Question 6: Should standards for Academic Performance be tightened, kept as they were for my class, or eased?

Overall, 77.7% indicated the Academic Standards should remain the same. There were no significant differences among classes on this question.

Question 7: Should standards for the Leadership Evaluation System be tightened, kept as they were for my class, or eased?

a. Overall, the majority favored tightening standards for leadership evaluation, in contrast to academic, conduct or physical education standards.

b. A significantly larger proportion of members of the Class of 1962 indicated standards for "Leadership" should remain the same as they were for their class, and a significantly smaller proportion said that standards should be tightened.

c. For the Class of 1969, a larger proportion said "Leadership" standards should be tightened, and a smaller proportion said these standards should stay the same.

d. A significantly larger proportion of the Class of 1971 said "Leadership" standards should be eased, compared to other classes.

Question 8: Should standards of Conduct (discipline) be tightened, kept as they were for my class, or eased?

Overall, 68.3% were in favor of keeping standards for conduct as they were for their respective classes. There were no significant differences among classes.

Question 9: Should standards for the Physical Education Program be tightened, kept as they were for my class, or eased?

a. Overall, 73% were in favor of keeping standards for physical education the same as they were for their respective classes.

b. A significantly larger proportion of members of the Class of 1962 favored easing standards of physical education compared to other classes, while a larger proportion of members of the Class of 1971 favored tightening them.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The two USMA programs found most useful to junior officer graduates were Behavioral Science and Applied Science and Engineering.
2. The majority of graduates sampled favor either a "majors" program or a provision for more opportunities for concentration in special areas of interest.
3. Approximately three-fourths of the graduates responding would go to West Point if they could reconsider their original decisions. This is a marked increase when compared

with the one-half of the Classes of 1969 and 1970 giving this response when asked the same question upon graduating, indicating that the passage of time tends to increase the esteem of graduates for the Military Academy.

4. Three-fourths of those responding to the survey would encourage outstanding high school seniors to come to West Point. This contrasts with 34% of the Class of 1969 and 42% of the Class of 1970 who gave this response when asked a similar question at graduation, again indicating that graduates' regard for the Military Academy increases with the passage of time.

5. The weight of opinion is in favor of tightening standards of the Leadership Evaluation System; while standards for Conduct, Physical Education and Academic Performance were favored to stay the same as they were.

REFERENCES

Houston, J. W., Results of First Class Questionnaire Class of 1970, Office of Research, USMA, West Point, New York, July 1970

Kappel, F. R., et al. A Study of the Programs of the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, December 1972.

U.S. Military Academy. Class of 1969 Questionnaire, All Respondents as of April 1969 Computer Printout.

U.S. Military Academy. First Class Questionnaire (Over-all Tabulation) Class of 1962, Research Division, Office of the Director of Admissions and Registrar, USMA, West Point, New York, December 1962.

APPENDIX A

TABLE 1

1. WHICH ONE OF THE PROGRAMS HAVE YOU FOUND MOST USEFUL?

USMA Programs	CLASSES													
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
App. Sci. & Eng.	35	29.7	18	39.1	53	32.3	87	18.9	24	16.7	27	19.8	191	21.1
Bas. Sci. & Math	29	24.6	8	17.4	37	22.6	65	14.1	20	13.9	15	11.0	137	15.1
Behav. Sci.	18	15.2	8	17.4	26	15.8	112	24.3	28	19.4	38	27.9	204	22.5
Comp. Tech.	1	.8	0	0.0	1	.6	2	.4	1	.7	1	.7	5	.6
Humanities	3	2.5	3	6.5	6	3.7	49	10.6	10	6.9	7	5.2	72	8.0
Mil. Sci.	11	9.3	2	4.4	13	7.9	64	13.9	26	18.1	16	11.8	119	13.2
Phys. Ed.	10	8.5	3	6.5	13	7.9	35	7.6	11	7.6	13	9.6	72	8.0
Soc. Sci.	11	9.3	4	8.7	15	9.1	47	10.2	24	16.7	19	14.0	105	11.6
TOTAL	118		46		164		461		144		136		905	

TABLE 2

2. WHICH ONE OF THE PROGRAMS YOU COULD HAVE USED MORE OF?

USMA Programs	CLASSES													
	'62 Active N	'62 Active %	'62 Res. N	'62 Res. %	'62 Total N	'62 Total %	'69 N	'69 %	'70 N	'70 %	'71 N	'71 %	Total N	Total %
App. Sci. & Eng.	8	6.8	4	8.7	12	7.4	40	8.7	16	11.4	14	10.4	82	9.2
Bas. Sci. & Math	9	7.7	2	4.4	11	6.8	15	3.3	9	6.4	4	3.0	39	4.4
Behav. Sci.	35	29.9	15	32.6	50	30.7	151	33.0	34	24.3	53	39.3	288	32.1
Comp. Tech.	30	25.6	10	21.7	40	24.5	32	7.0	12	8.6	8	5.9	92	10.3
Humanities	12	10.3	10	21.7	22	13.5	73	15.9	34	24.3	14	10.4	143	16.0
Mil. Sci.	17	14.5	2	4.4	19	11.7	51	11.1	12	8.6	16	11.8	98	10.9
Phys. Ed.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.3	0	0.0	2	1.5	8	0.9
Soc. Sci.	6	5.1	3	6.5	9	5.5	90	19.6	23	16.4	24	17.8	146	16.3
TOTAL	117		46		163		458		140		135		896	

TABLE 3

3. IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD THE CURRICULUM OFFERED AT WEST POINT:

1. Remain essentially as now structured (40 core courses, 8 electives)?
2. Provide more opportunities for concentration in special areas of interests?
3. Provide more opportunities for a variety of completely free and unstructured electives?
4. Provide for full-fledged majors in as many disciplinary areas as possible?
5. Provide a single major in leadership and management with a choice of minors?
6. Other (specify under K)?

Response No.	CLASSES											
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	31	27.2	10	21.7	41	25.6	61	13.2	26	18.1	23	17.0
2	24	21.0	11	23.9	35	21.9	133	28.7	29	20.1	30	22.2
3	6	5.3	3	6.5	9	5.6	18	3.9	13	9.0	9	6.7
4	19	16.7	10	21.7	29	18.1	176	37.9	55	38.2	51	37.8
5	30	26.3	12	26.1	42	26.2	68	14.7	15	10.4	15	11.1
6	4	3.5	0	0.0	4	2.5	8	1.7	6	4.2	7	5.2
Total	114		46		160		464		144		135	
												903

TABLE 4

4. IF YOU COULD RECONSIDER YOUR ORIGINAL DECISION, WOULD YOU NOW GO TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY?

Response	Classes													
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	14	11.9	6	12.5	20	12.0	89	19.1	27	18.5	23	16.9	159	17.4
Yes	92	78.0	40	83.3	132	79.5	319	68.6	98	67.1	97	71.3	646	70.7
Undecided	12	10.2	2	4.2	14	8.4	5	12.3	21	14.4	16	11.8	108	11.8
Total	118		48		166		465		146		136		913	

TABLE 5

5. WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS TO COME TO WEST POINT?

Response	Classes													
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	10	8.5	3	6.2	13	7.8	52	11.2	21	14.6	25	18.2	111	12.2
Yes	97	82.2	41	85.4	138	83.1	352	76.0	96	66.7	91	66.4	677	74.4
Undecided	11	9.3	4	8.3	15	9.0	59	12.7	27	18.8	21	15.3	122	13.4
Total	118		48		166		463		144		137		910	

Questions 6-9 were preceded by the following statement: There are four basic areas in which a cadet may find himself deficient and be separated from the Academy. Using the code below indicate whether:

- The standards should be tightened and the number of separations increased.
- The standards should be kept approximately as they were for my class.
- The standards should be eased and the number of separations decreased.

TABLE 6

6. STANDARDS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Response	Classes											
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tightened	33	28.0	5	10.4	38	22.9	76	16.3	27	18.5	22	16.2
Stay the same	81	68.6	39	81.2	120	72.3	369	79.3	116	79.4	104	76.5
Eased	4	3.4	4	8.3	8	4.8	20	4.3	3	2.0	10	7.4
Total	118		48		166		465		146		136	
												913

TABLE 7

7. STANDARDS FOR LEADERSHIP

Response	Classes											
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tightened	42	36.2	15	31.2	57	34.8	270	58.2	75	51.4	61	45.5
Stay the same	69	59.5	28	58.3	97	59.2	170	36.6	57	39.0	57	42.5
Eased	5	4.3	5	10.4	10	6.1	24	5.2	14	9.6	16	11.9
Total	116		48		164		464		146		134	
												908

TABLE 8

8. STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT

Response	Classes											
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tightened	22	18.6	2	4.2	24	14.5	92	19.8	29	19.9	29	21.5
Stay the same	86	72.9	37	77.1	123	74.1	317	68.2	97	66.4	86	63.7
Eased	10	8.5	9	18.7	19	11.4	56	12.0	20	13.7	20	14.8
Total	118		48		166		465		146		135	
												912

TABLE 9

9. STANDARDS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Response	Classes											
	'62 Active		'62 Res.		'62 Total		'69		'70		'71	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tightened	18	15.2	5	10.4	23	13.9	92	19.8	31	21.2	43	31.6
Stay the same	90	76.3	33	68.8	123	74.1	345	74.2	108	74.0	90	66.2
Eased	10	8.5	10	20.8	20	12.0	28	6.0	7	4.8	3	2.2
Total	118		48		166		465		146		136	
												913

APPENDIX B

GRADUATE SURVEY - 1972

DIRECTIONS:

For each of the ten questions place the number corresponding to the alternative of your choice in the space provided in the right hand margin opposite each question.

A. Class Year (last two digits).

A _____

Questions B and C:

USMA Programs:

1. Applied science and engineering
2. Basic science and mathematics
3. Behavioral science
4. Computer technology
5. Humanities
6. Military science
7. Physical education
8. Social science

Listed above are various programs at USMA. Based on your experience as an officer, indicate:

B. Which one of the programs you have found most useful.

B _____

C. Which one of the programs you could have used more of.

C _____

D. In your opinion, should the curriculum offered at West Point

D _____

1. remain essentially as now structured (40 core courses, 8 electives)?
2. provide more opportunities for concentration in special areas of interests?
3. provide more opportunities for a variety of completely free and unstructured electives?
4. provide for full-fledged majors in as many disciplinary areas as possible?
5. provide a single major in leadership and management with a choice of minors?
6. Other (specify under K).

(OVER)

E. If you could reconsider your original decision, would you now go to the U.S. Military Academy?

E _____

1. No
2. Yes
3. Undecided

F. Would you encourage outstanding high school seniors to come to West Point?

F _____

1. No
2. Yes
3. Undecided

Questions G through J:

There are four basic areas in which a cadet may find himself deficient and be separated from the Academy. Using the code below indicate whether:

CODE

RESPONSE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | The standards should be tightened and the number of separations increased. |
| 2 | The standards should be kept approximately as they were for my class. |
| 3 | The standards should be eased and the number of separations decreased. |

G. Academic Performance

G _____

H. Leadership Evaluation System (formerly Aptitude for the Service System).

H _____

I. Conduct (discipline).

I _____

J. Physical Education Program

J _____

K. Comments (curriculum or otherwise).

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<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Academics</td> <td>Graduates</td> <td>Special Projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class of 1962</td> <td>Leadership</td> <td>Survey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class of 1969-1971</td> <td>Physical Education</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Curriculum</td> <td>Questionnaire</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Academics	Graduates	Special Projects	Class of 1962	Leadership	Survey	Class of 1969-1971	Physical Education		Curriculum	Questionnaire	
Academics	Graduates	Special Projects												
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Curriculum	Questionnaire													
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